



CHEESE BITS

W3CCX
CLUB MEMORIAL CALL

ARRL
Affiliated
Club



Volume XLVII

DECEMBER 2005

Number 12

PREZ — There are so many things that come to mind at year end: first and foremost is a thank you to all the officers and board members and all of the chairpersons who helped to make this past year such a successful one for the Packrats. There are also the myriad of other members who in less visible roles kept activities humming and provided great support for the club activities. Although there are many BIG events that require leadership, there are many other roles, without which the club couldn't function. They take time and dedication, and are often what I like to call the "self-appointed tasks." On behalf of all the club members and friends of the Packrats, thank you all for everything that you do to make this such a wonderful, helpful and stimulating group.

I just met Joel Harrison, W5ZN, ARRL Executive VP, for the first time at dinner prior to the meeting last month. After speaking with him and hearing his presentation, he feels like an old friend that I've known for years. His energy is infectious, and radio achievements are phenomenal. I'm sure he's bound for continued service to us all. Thanks again to Bob, N4HY for this arrangement. It was great to have a full dinner table and packed house to hear him.

Contest plans are underway, and if you need help or gear, make sure you let it be known so that we can maximize the January activity. Our chairperson, Steve, N3FTI has the operating aids to be sent out to you electronically, and Bill, K3EGE has the list of equipment available.

We are ordering special 50th Anniversary QSL cards for the club, and for club members who wish to purchase them with your own call and information in the same celebratory format. The price is right, and you can contact K3EGE@aol.com to place your order. How would you like to be our W3CCX QSL manager? Let me know.

We will start to sell tickets for our 50th Anniversary Banquet soon. Please mark your calendars for Saturday evening, April 1st 2006. We have a DJ booked, unique souvenirs, a brief program planned, and hopefully a very unique high profile speaker that will be interesting and exciting for all who come. This is an event that should be enjoyable by all Packrats, past and present, and their families.

I already got my holiday gifts on order and some have arrived already. A new 6m Moxon and 350w 2m amp are newly installed in the rover. A



new 1296 transverter and 150W amp and a 10W 10G amp are coming from DEMI. Leon now has his own FT857 and ATAS. I hope that you all enjoy a happy holiday season and a healthy and prosperous new year. 73, Rick, K1DS

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PACKRAT 222 MHz REPEATER - W3CCX/R

222.98/224.58 MHz, Churchville, PA

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PACKRAT BEACONS - W3CCX/B

FM29jw Philadelphia, PA

50.080, 144.284, 222.065, 432.295, 903.071, 1296.251,
 2304.037, 3456.220, 5763.190, 10,368.140 MHz (as of 3/1/01)

MONDAY NIGHT NETS

<u>TIME</u>	<u>FREQUENCY</u>	<u>NET CONTROL</u>
7:30 PM	50.150 MHz	K3EOD FM29ll
8:00 PM	144.150 MHz	N3ITT FN20kl
8:30 PM	222.125 MHz	K3TUF FN10we
8:30 PM	224.58R MHz	W3GXB FN20jm
9:00 PM	432.110 MHz	WA3GFZ FN20kc
9:30 PM	1296.100 MHz	WA3NUF FN20le
10:00 PM	903.125 MHz	AA3GN FN20ig
10:30 PM	2304.085 MHz	W3KJ FN20hg

& go to 3.4G & up after

Visit the Mt. Airy VHF Radio Club at: <http://www.ij.net/packrats>

Editor's Column

Don't look now but the major giving Holidays are right around the corner. In my house that holiday is Christmas. For others it is Chanukah or some variation of a celebration of the winter solstice. Whatever your choice of how to celebrate the season may your celebration be filled with the joy and love of the season.

With Families and parties in the fore front the January Contest tends to fall out of view only to coming roaring back into your realm of reality right after the January first football games and your annual meeting with "Overeaters Anonymous" and a series of soon to be forgotten resolutions. Hopefully your enjoyment of amateur radio is not hampered by all these activities. Ward Silver, N0AX, has a bit of perspective on how to "hint" for those holiday gifts for your enjoyment.

I am pleased to report that the W3GAD station can once again hear and transmit on 1296. We will be on at least 6 band and hopefully on 7 during the contest. While there are many other projects to be completed this was one of the major goals for this year and looks like it is done well before the contest.

There have been a number of appeals from the Board of Directors for the membership to respond to the questionnaire that has sent to all electronic members and mailed to the few snail mail members—They really would like a high percentage to respond so they have a much better perspective on the direction the PACKRATS should be heading as they enter their fifty-first year serving the VHF, UHF, Microwave community.

I have had the pleasure of editing CheeseBits for the last 1-1/2 years and would really appreciate any comments., pro or con, on the direction the newsletter has taken. I know the goal is to have it out before the first of the month—but finding enough good stuff to fill these few pages with out membership contributions is sometimes a real challenge.

Our Vice-President/Program Chairman K1JT, along with the recent past Vice-President N4HY, has been doing an superb job of lining up excellent programs for the monthly meetings. We do have a few "standard" activities like Homebrew Night and the Members Picnic to ease the burden and a few night dedicated to preparations for the January and June contest efforts. I am sure that Joe would appreciate any input you may have for future programs .

Enough said for December.

May you all have a very joyous holiday and a Merry Christmas too.

Listen for the WEAK ONES

73
 W3GAD Doc



ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS

As we approach the holiday season, non-ham spouses are once again filled with dread as they contemplate the task of choosing a gift for the ham in their life. Will this year's election once again be greeted with a quizzical expression and a mumbled, "Gee, it's really...nice!" This after agonizing over the selection for days.

Surely this is not so difficult, eh? All they have to do is pick up a copy of the most dangerous publication on earth - a ham radio store catalog - and select a suitable prize. Can this be so hard? My friends, you don't know the half of it!

Aside from the obvious choice - a brand new multi-k\$ radio - picking your present can be a daunting task. Each of us is highly specialized, having honed our skills over many years, an expert in our chosen field. Every item in the shack has been carefully selected and installed, possibly modified, and likely gleaned from a long line of predecessors discarded as a result of one subtle fault or another. How does one choose just the right thing for such a person, when we take months to choose gadgets ourselves?

My long-suffering spouse, Nancy, has made diligent efforts and finally settled on not getting equipment at all, but rather making curtains for the shack, a FB wall hanging with the N0AX call sign, or even a desk map. She gave up on picking techno-trinkets long ago after not generating the desired zing from her ham. But consider the poor spouse still learning the hard way!

She or he may pore over your magazines and flyers for weeks, chewing fingernails to the quick. Then they nervously dial the 1-800 number to order the Chosen Item, a 2005 Channelblanger, only to be met with the dreaded, "What options do you want with that?" Options? There are options? "Yeah, a 245XL feldstormatic comes standard, but you can substitute the Pi-over-2 ditzmonger or the Ethermangler 7th-order bi-chuck suppressor." A long pause ensues before the harried orderer works up the nerve to ask what they cost. "They're all \$49.95." Dang! No clue there, can one order them all? "No, you can only install one." Since the spouse has no idea what you would do with the Channelblanger anyway, panic sets in. Eventually, a quasi-random Channelblanger

option is selected and a good stiff drink is poured knowing that the chances of success are as slim as the chances of getting the feed lines tidied up before the relatives come for dinner. On the day of days, you open your present with trembling fingers, hoping for that new Zorborator Field-and-Stream Mark Fifty-leven. Yes! The box is from YaeKenComTec and it's heavy! And...it's...a...save the paper...a... Oh. It's a Channelblanger. Um. "Gee, it's really...nice!" You can hear the fizz leaking out of all parties as dreams are dashed on the sharp rocks of incomprehension and dismay.

What to do? Personally, "just buying my own darn present" doesn't have a lot of appeal. After all, I manage to sneak enough stuff into the house throughout the year. (No, Nancy doesn't get this newsletter...)

Leaving things up to random chance has a vanishingly small chance of success. Strategically leaving magazines open with certain items circled in black felt-tip is no guarantee of getting the desired result either. I've settled on writing "suggestions" on slips of paper (along with a vendor) and putting them in a jar. I don't expect to get them all (well, there's always hope) and so the element of surprise is preserved. The thrill of the hunt is still present, but without that awful downside.

You may have your own methods of achieving spousal harmony at present-time. For those new to the hobby or to domestic bliss, I offer the preceding tale as your e-Elmer, one ham to another. If you are considerate and can devise a suitable system, your spouse will appreciate it. Perhaps even to the tune of a new Zorborator! Need I say more?

73, Ward N0AX

ARRL Contest Rate Sheet for November 16, 2005

WHO ARE YOUR HAM NEIGHBOR'S

Fans of the wonderful things programmers are doing with on-line mapping will enjoy the ham location application at:

http://www.perconcorp.com/google_ham.html.

Apparently, the database used is a little dated, but the idea is fresh - enter a zip code and find out where the hams are in your area! (Thanks, Dick N6AA and Bob N6TV)

ARRL Contest Rate Sheet for November 16, 2005

JANUARY 2006 VHF SWEEPSTAKES WAKE UP CALL

Thanksgiving has come and gone, and another January ARRL VHF Sweepstakes is just around the corner. This year's big event starts on Saturday January 21st, 2006 at 1900 GMT and runs through January 23rd at 0400 GMT.

Everyone knows that the Packrats have dominated the January Sweepstakes Unlimited Club competition for many years. This year should be no exception! With 2006 being our 50th anniversary it would be frosting on the cake to set a new Unlimited Club Competition record bypassing our existing record of 3,127,678 points.

At last month's meeting Joel Harrison, W5ZN described his methodology in setting the June contest record that was recently broken by Jeff Klein, K1TEO. One thing that he mentioned was having a goal and a plan to reach that goal. This may seem only logical, but so many amateurs go into a contest without a goal or plan. Our goal as a club should be to break the 3.2 million point mark.

Weeks before the January contest you should start thinking about your personal goals. Is it to beat your best January score, work all Packrats on the check off sheet, or set a new ARRL record? Whether you are able to operating for two hours or the entire contest; make a plan and stick to it. Before the contest starts you should decide what times you will operate and when you will sleep, when you will run the bands from bottom to top and when you will run schedules on WSJT. Planning is essential to success!

Don't wait until the week before the contest to check your computer and RF gear. Do it now! Monday night Packrat Nets provide an excellent opportunity to test your station. Need to check your microwave equipment? Don't hesitate to ask the net control operator if anyone on the net can QSY to the microwaves. Also don't forget Dec 3rd, Microwave Activity Day is another great chance to test your gear.

The week before the contest is key to your contest productivity. Make sure you get plenty of sleep the week prior to the contest, also make sure you get some physical exercise. It is amazing how much better you feel when some physical exercise is worked in to your daily schedule! This is especially true for rovers who are not only required to operate the contest but convert their station from travel to operate mode many times during the contest.

In closing, I suggest everyone visit the website written by Bill Seabreeze, W3IY (<http://users.adelphia.net/~w3iy/>). Bill has left us with vast repository of knowledge gathered through his years of contesting and roving. With subjects ranging from basic contesting and roving to the use of specialized software to predict microwave line of sight paths Bill's web site has something for everyone, not just Rovers.

73

Steven Kerns, N3FTI
January Contest Chairman

NOTE: This year's contest package will be electronically sent to all members who presently receive Cheese Bits via email. It will be sent as an Acrobat file (.pdf) just prior to the December meeting. Members that do not have email can receive their contest packages at the December meeting. Members without email and who do not attend the December meeting will receive their packages via regular USPS mail.

VHF+ CONTESTS

North American Meteor Scatter Contest--any mode, sponsored by the WSJTGROU from 0000Z Dec 10 - 0700Z Dec 18 (the Geminids meteor shower). Frequencies (MHz): 50, 144, 222, 432, via meteor scatter.

Categories: SOSB, SOAB, (HP, LP < 200W), Assisted or Unassisted. No QSOs with your own or adjacent grid squares, QSOs are counted as Scheduled or Random. Exchange: full call signs, grid square and QSOs must be acknowledged. QSO Points, Assisted / Unassisted: 50--1 / 3 pt, 144--1 / 3 pts, 222--3 / 9 pts, 432--10 / 30 pts. Score: QSO Points x grid squares counted once per band. For more information: <http://www.ykc.com/wa5ufh/Rally/NAHSMS.htm>. Logs due 19 Jan to mph@swcp.com or Mike Hasselbeck, 3209 Cagua Dr NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110.

From: ARRL Contest Rate Sheet 11/30/2006

Call for Papers

10th Annual Southeastern VHF Society Conference

April 28th and 29th, 2006 Greenville, SC

The Southeastern VHF Society is calling for the submission of papers and presentations for the upcoming 10th Annual Southeastern VHF Society Conference to be held in Greenville, South Carolina on April 28th and 29th, 2006. Papers and presentations are solicited on both the technical and operational aspects of VHF, UHF and Microwave weak signal amateur radio.

Some suggested areas of interest are:

- Transmitters
- Receivers
- Transverters
- RF Power Amplifiers
- RF Low Noise Pre Amplifiers
- Antennas
- Construction Projects
- Test Equipment And Station Accessories
- Station Design And Construction
- Contesting
- Roving
- DXpeditions
- EME
- Propagation (Sporadic E, Meteor Scatter, Troposphere Ducting, etc.)
- Digital Modes (WSJT, etc.)
- Digital Signal Processing (DSP)
- Software Defined Radio (SDR)
- Amateur Satellites
- Amateur Television

In general papers and presentations on non weak signal related topics such as FM repeaters and packet will not be accepted but exceptions may be made if the topic is related to weak signal. For example, a paper or presentation on the use of APRS to track rovers during contests would be considered.

The deadline for the submission of papers and presentations is March 3, 2006. All submissions should be in Microsoft Word (.doc) or alternatively Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) files. Pages are 8 and 1/2 by 11 inches with a 1 inch margin on the bottom and 3/4 inch margin on the other three sides. All text, drawings, photos, etc. must be black and white only (no color). Please indicate when you submit your paper or presentation if you plan to attend the conference and present there or if you are submitting just for publication. Papers and presentations will be published in bound proceedings by the ARRL. Send all questions, comments and submissions to the technical program chair, Jim Worsham, W4KXY at w4kxy@bellsouth.net.

COMING SOON

N.E.W.S. CONFERENCE

April 2006

The 2006 EASTERN VHF/UHF CONFERENCE will be held on April 21-23, 2006 in Enfield, CT. This will be the first major vhf+ conference event of the year so please mark your calendars and plan to attend.

We are looking for submission of papers and presentations for the upcoming 32nd annual conference and also people to help out again.

Please contact Bruce Wood, N2LIV conference chairman at bdwood@erols.com. or (631) 265-1015 (h). (516) 938-6938 ext 210 (w).

Hope to see you all there. Bruce, N2LIV

BEACON NEWS

Hey Fellow Microwavers:

Not certain this has been published, but, because Fred was asking about Beacons operating on 3456 and 10368 MHz, I thought this information might be useful:

K6LEW/B has been in operation from North Mountain, WV for over a month;

DMS: 39 - 05 - 29 N , 78 - 30 12.85 W

Deg Dec: 39.09425 / -78.50357

Min Dec: 38 - 5.655 / -78 - 30.2142

UTM: Zone 17,

Easting (meters): 71589,

Northing (meters): 4330202

Beacon frequency / power out / antenna type / approximate gain:

2304.215 MHz / 10 watts / WG Slot / 21 dBi

3456.215 MHz / 5 watts / WG Slot / 24.6 dBi

5760.210 MHz / 5 watts / WG Slot / 28.1 dBi

10,368.218 MHz / 5 watts / WG Slot / 32.3 db

Early in 2006 the call sign will be changed to K3UO/B.

73, Chuck Watts, W4XP; FM18ew
1.8 thru 10368 MHz

Delmarva VHF and Microwave Society,
K8GP

Grid Pirates Contest Group;
<http://k8gp.net>

Potomac Valley Radio Club;
<http://www.pvrc.org>

Ole Virginia Hams;
<http://www.w4ovh.org>

W5ZN Presents

Doing What It Takes to Be a Winner!

At the November meeting the PACKRATS had the pleasure of a visit from W5ZN Joel Harrison - EM45dh.

Joel is a very active ham as well as First Vice-President of the ARRL. He has a very impressive list of achievements in amateur radio and a very long list of certificated and awards from his years of activities. Check W5ZN out on QRZ.com



Joel presented a pictorial review of the growth of his station at home and some of the projects he is currently working on to expand his activities.

Next Joel went into some detail of his efforts to seize the national championship for Single operator in the June VHF QSO PARTY. From the extensive improvements in his station in Southern Arkansas to seeding rovers into the territory so he and others could work as many grids as possible to help the score. He was very successfully twice in capturing the title first with WB5IGF and again, beating his old record

setting score, as W5ZN. His record from 1996 remained in tact until finally passed by K1TEO in 2005.

For Joel there is no record that can not be broken. Records are only there as goals and with the right planning and effort they can be matched and passed. For the PACKRATS this is a very important message—There is someone out there who would like to beat our record setting scores in the January Contest.

Also, like WA3RLT's efforts to review and learn from past performance during the January Contest, Joel scrutinize the activities in the June Contest, took the knowledge and used it all to his advantage, maximizing his efforts during the peak activities times and finding other innovative activities to generate contacts and increase his grid count and qso points during the off hours, activities like EME and Meteor Scatter.

Joel's efforts paid off in his record setting performances in 1995 and again in 1996 setting a new record that remained unbroken for almost 10 years.

Joel showed us some of his projects in development and a photo of his "antenna range" where he tests his feeds for the new EME dish that is under construction. I can't help but wonder if some of those top EME scores may be in his sights and, who knows he may even be gunning for a new January record despite the reduced enhancements on the bands during the winter months.

So PACKRATS, if Jeff, K1TEO can break Joel's old records from FN31, who from the PACKRATS can break Jeff's record and claim top spot in the June contest as the Single-Op-High-Power champion?

VHF & UP RESISTERY

Every once in a while I get an email from someone requesting that I register them or update/modify their information so I feel it is necessary to remind everyone, my database is a do-it-yourself database. If I had spent 15 minutes per person, I would have spent by now a total of 437 hours - and that's just for entering the information.

Rather than going on via the reflectors, I've written up a small article and posted it on my website at:

<http://www.aa1yn.com/register-info.html>

so you can read it there - thus saving much bandwidth.

This database is for you and does require you to spend a small amount of time registering and entering your information but there is one good part - it is FREE for all to use. It isn't just for WSJT types but for all types of operation. This is info you can't get from QRZ.com.

So Please visit the registry and I promise if you don't like it for any reason at all, I'll refund your money - I'll even refund your shipping charges :-)

Lee Scott - AA1YN <http://www.aa1yn.com>

Home of the VHF & Up Register

<http://www.aa1yn.com/vhf>

Home of the VHF Talk chatroom

<http://vhftalk.aa1yn.com>

Hooksett, NH FN43gc52

We have been very privileged to have visits from Joel in November and Dave in October. Both of these leaders from the ARRL emphasized the need for all of us to do everything we can to encourage young people to enter and become active in amateur radio.



The growth and, perhaps even the survival, of the hobby will not be in the registration numbers but rather the use of the bands and the number of active operators. With the FCC making changes and the very strong likelihood that that CW will not be required for any level license there is one less deterrent for getting into the hobby. CW will continue to be used and enjoyed by, not only current members, but also many of those who will enter the hobby in the future even if it is no longer required.

GET ON THE AIR—GROW THE HOBBY

W3GAD

You Gotta Operate January SS!!

Now is the time to firm up your plans for activity in the January VHF SS, January 21 & 22, 2006. Operating in the premier winter VHF-UHF-Microwave event, the Packrats have consistently been top scorers in the Unlimited Club category, and this is the annual test of our mettle. Although we need to have 50 club member entries to be in the Unlimited category, we should easily have 65 or more stations on the air, with their logs submitted to the ARRL.

We know we have some real work-horse stations, some great rovers, and some super-multi-ops. We also have a large group of modestly equipped stations that provide so much activity. And for those with lesser time and gear, there's always 146.58FM, 223.5FM and 449.0FM for those with just a walkie or mobile FM rig. Whatever you do, make sure that your call is represented in the Packrat aggregate club entry.

There are rigs and antennas for loan. There are technically savvy club members who may be able to assist you with assistance and repair of something that's broken. Make your needs and available skills and gear known by making a call to our January VHF contest chair, Steve Kerns, N3FTI 610-929-5878 or Bill, K3EGE at 610-789-8976.

Fire up your gear and make sure everything is working the way it should. Check into the Monday night nets and see who hears you and whom you can hear. Operate Microwave Activity Day (Sat Dec 3, 8A-1P and Sat Jan 7, same times) to get your microwave gear cookin' and antenna direction peaked.

It is a fantastic opportunity for some of the more senior club members with substantial equipment to invite a newcomer to their shack to learn VHF contesting and to assist in operating, or have the chance to take the controls! Let's not waste this opportunity to mentor the newer club members and let perfectly good operating rigs languish. Make sure that you are on the right bands during the activity hours and work the club members. Don't wait until Sunday night to turn on your rigs or defer those high point microwave QSOs until the last hour of the contest when everyone is scrambling. Call CQ often on 223.5FM to find other club members you haven't yet worked and move them up on all of their bands. Do I have great expectations? YES!! Let them be fulfilled! Thanks and 73—Rick, K1DS

WINNERS ANNOUNCED IN CONTESTED ARRL DIRECTOR, VICE DIRECTOR RACES

A new face will occupy the Atlantic Division Director's chair on the ARRL Board of Directors starting January 1, but it will be a familiar one. Incumbent directors won new three-year terms in two other divisions. One new and one not-so-new Vice Director candidate also emerged victorious. Ballots in contested elections for ARRL Director and Vice Director seats in the three divisions were counted November 18 at ARRL Headquarters. Incumbent directors and vice directors in two additional divisions ran unopposed and have been declared elected. ...



N3LLR BILL EDGER—DIR

IN THE ATLANTIC DIVISION: Current Atlantic Division Vice Director William C. "Bill" Edgar, N3LLR, will be moving into the Director's spot. He overcame a challenge from ARRL Western New York Section Manager Scott J. Bauer, W2LC, by a vote of 2404 to 1527. Edgar takes over from Bernie Fuller, N3EFN, who did not seek reelection. During the campaign, Edgar stressed his five years as Vice Director and pledged to continue Fuller's leadership example. He previously served as Western Pennsylvania Section

Manager. Elected to succeed Edgar as Vice Director was ARRL Maryland-DC Section Manager Thomas J. "Tom" Abernethy, W3TOM, who outpolled Thomas G. Valosin, WB2KLD, 2335 to 1579. An SM since 2001, Abernethy, cited his section's leadership role in providing Amateur Radio's response to the 2001 terrorist attack on the Pentagon as well as to two devastating tornadoes and several successful BPL and antenna regulation challenges. Abernethy and Edgar ran a joint campaign for their respective positions and had Fuller's endorsement. ...



W3TOM—TOM ABERNATHY

FROM ARRL NEWS LETTER Vol 24 No 45

Joel Knoblock W3RFC

www.therfc.com

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WHAT'S HAPPENING

A LISTING OF INTERESTING EVENTS

3 DECEMBER 2005—W3IY MICROWAVE ACTIVITIES DAY - 0800 to 1200 local time start on 144.200 and move up the bands—test your gear and try some Microwave DX

5, 12, 19, 26 DECEMBER 2005—NET NIGHT—Regularly scheduled nets starting at 1930 hrs (7:30 for the civilians) on 50.145 (Note new frequency) Get on the air, Check your equipment, hear the latest PACKRAT news.

8 DECEMBER 2005—PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS Meeting at the QTH of K1DS, 206 Kimberton Drive, Blue Bell, PA (610)-270-8884

15 DECEMBER 2005—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club This is the meeting for the final push for the January 2006 VHF Contest. N3FTI will have the contest packets and make any last minute plea for assistance. Please come, pick up your contest packet and learn who will be on what bands for January.

7 JANUARY 2006—W3IY MICROWAVE ACTIVITIES DAY - 0800 to 1200 local time start on 144.200 and move up the bands—test your gear and try some DX

12 JANUARY 2006—PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS Meeting

19 JANUARY 2006—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club. WA3RLT will be giving his analysis of the 2005 logs. This is the meeting where you pick up those valuable tips on the MUST BE ON THE AIR Strategies. Rover schedules will be available. Rover schedules are, of course, subject to the whims of Mother Nature.

21-23 JANUARY 2006—JANUARY VHF SWEEPSTAKES—Get working now to finish your improvements. Get on the air to test your equipment while there is plenty of time to get the help you need. Take advantage of the MICROWAVE ACTIVITIES DAYS too!!

9 FEBRUARY 2006—PACKRATS BOARD of DIRECTORS Meeting

16 FEBRUARY 2006—Regular meeting of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club. This is the annual CRYING TOWEL Evening. Come for the laughs, come for the tears and come to the hear of the success of the PACKRATS.

1 APRIL 2006—Celebration of the PACKRATS 50th Anniversary. Williamson Restaurant and Conference Center, Horsham, PA just north of exit 343 of the Pennsylvania Turnpike

All meetings are announced on the regular Monday Evening Nets. (See Page 2)
Board meetings of the Mount Airy VHF Radio Club are open to all members. Teleconferencing for members is usually available.

Regularly scheduled meetings of the PACKRATS are held in the basement meeting room at the Southampton Public Library on Street Road in Southampton, PA. Meetings are open, not only to the membership, but to any party interested in VHF/UHF/Microwave contesting, equipment design and construction for use on the VHF/UHF and Microwave Frequencies or amateur radio in general.

METEOR SHOWERS PREDICTED

According to the FARMERS ALMANAC 2005 Edition the following Meteor's will be visiting in December:

GEMINIDS December 13-14

Will be overhead 1-3 AM on those dates and

URSIDS December 22-23

Will be in the northern sky.

Looks like you should have fun working WSJT through the Christmas Holidays.

The ALMANAC also offers this rather simplistic description of a meteor. Their description is for those interested in watching meteor showers.

"Meteors, more commonly referred to as "falling " or "Shooting" stars, are metallic or stony particles which become visible when they plunge through our atmosphere.

Though 100 million or more strike our atmosphere every 24 hours, those larger than dust particles are usually vaporized before they can ever get close to the Earth's surface.

The average meteor is estimated to weigh 0.0005 ounce.

RULES FOR USE OF 432 REVISED 2004

* Revised restrictions on 70 cm bear repeating: In 2004, a revised FootnoteUS7 in Part 2.106 of the Code of Federal Regulations went into effect, further expanding the 50 W maximum output power restriction in place for the 420-450 MHz band in the US Southwest. (The applicable Part 97 Amateur Service rule is §97.303, which incorporates §2.106 by reference.) "In talking to people at hamfests and other Amateur Radio meetings, I've found that very few people are aware of this rule," says Bill Kauffman, W5YEJ, of the New Mexico Frequency Coordinating Committee. While the previous version of §2.106(a), essentially covered the White Sands Missile Range area of New Mexico, language effective as of January 2004 expanded it to include all of New Mexico and Texas lying west of 104° W. The 70 cm band is a shared allocation in the US, and federal government users are primary. Amateur Radio, as a secondary occupant, may not cause interference to primary government stations and must tolerate any interference from government stations. The 50 W restriction continues to apply to all of Arizona and Florida as well as parts of several other states, including California, Nevada, Massachusetts, Alaska, North Dakota, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina. Exceptions to the power limit must be expressly authorized by the FCC after mutual agreement, on a case-by-case basis, between the FCC District Director in the applicable district and the Military Area Frequency Coordinator at the applicable military base.

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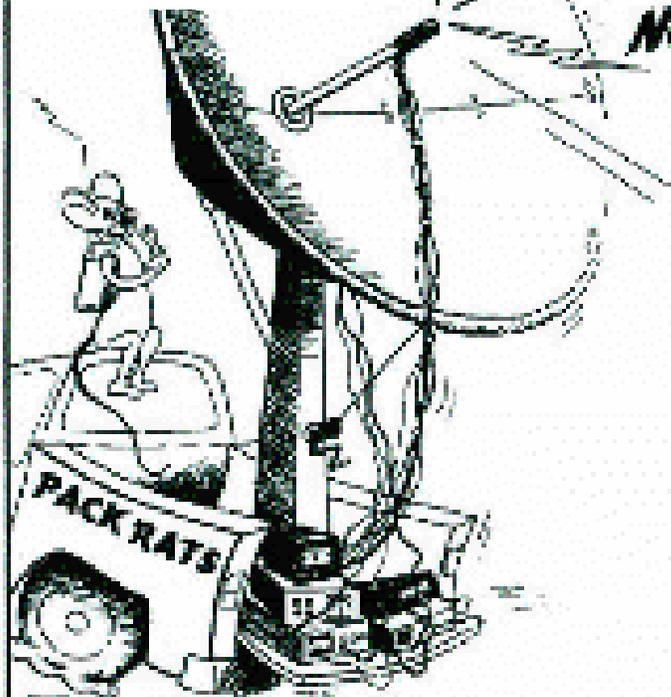
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MEETING NOTICE



LOOKING AHEAD:

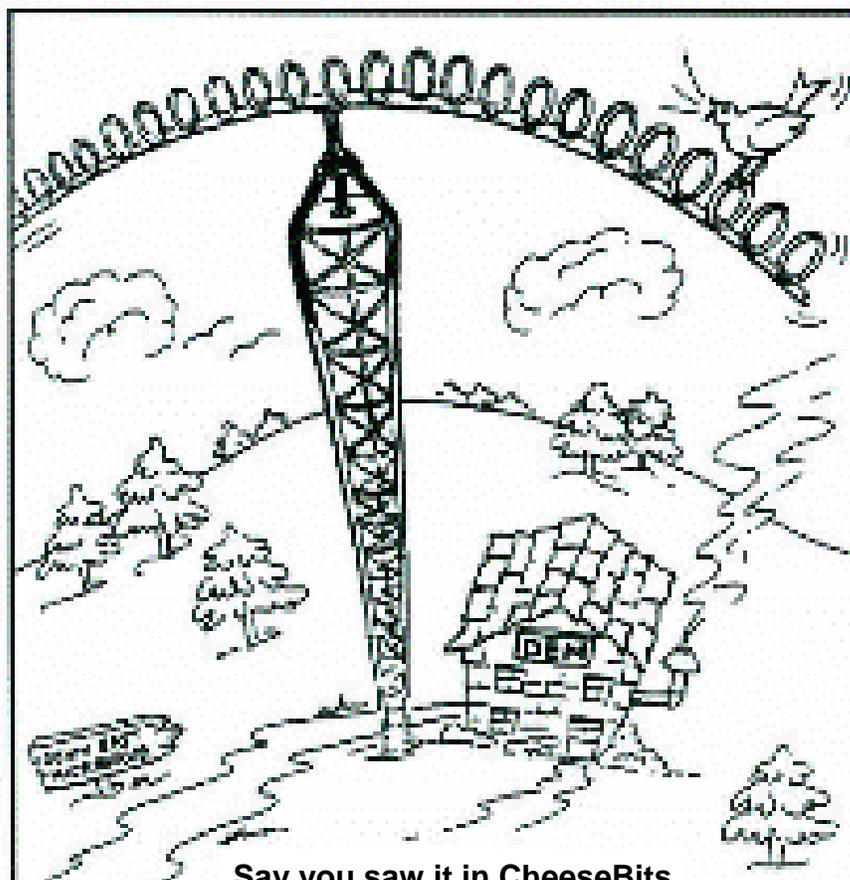
VHF SWEEPSTAKES
21 to 23 January 2006

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